Assistance for Sick Units from N.R.F.

3657. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend assistance from National Renewal Fund to rehabilitate the sick units in Andhra Pradesh to State level public sector units;

(b) if so, the current status; and

(c) the steps taken for its expeditious disposal?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The National Renewal Fund (NRF) has been set up by Government in February, 1992 to provide a special safety net for workers affected by technology upgradation, modernisation, and industrial restructuring of Indian Industry.

Assistance from National Renewal Fund has been restricted to implementation of Voluntary Retirement Schemes in Central Public Sector Undertakings and schemes for counselling, retraining and redeployment of rationalised workers.

Canadian Business in India

3658. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Canada has shown its interest to capitalise on India's business;

(b) if so, whether any Trade Action Plan has been prepared in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of activities proposed in the Trade Action Plan;

(d) the sectors in which such activities are likely to be initiated; and

(e) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Govt. of Canada has developed a business development strategy known as 'Focus India' to help Canadian business to take advantage underway in India. As a complement to 'Focus India' Strategy, the Govt. of Canada has prepared a Trade Development Plan for India to provide their Federal and Provincial Agencies with an outline of market development activities planned for fiscal year 1996-97. The activities proposed in the Trade Action Plan include exploring the merits of creating a Canada-India Business Council and sectoral associations to mount sectoral missions to India; conducting out-reach activities to stress the importance of India to Canadian Industry Associations; expanding the Indian market information base; conducting a series of seminars in collaboration with Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) on environmental equipment and services opportunities in India; conducting Industry Association presentations; continuing to provide information and assistance to the Canadian industry on the trade and investment opportunities with India; working on mechanism to address market issues which hinder trade.

(d) The sectors in which activities are likely to be initiated include Power; Oil & Gas; Environmental products & Services; Telecommunications & Information Technology; Transportation Systems; Mining, Metal and Minerals; Agriculture and Food Products; Industrial Machinery; Bio-industries.

(e) The Trade Action Plan being implemented by the Government of Canada is likely to result in enhanced commercial and economic ties between India and Canada.

Modernisation of Textile Mills

3659. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to seek financial assistance from multilateral financial institutions for modernisation of textile mills in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of multilateral financial institutions; and

(d) the details of manner in which the assistance would be utilised, Statewise ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise

Similar Sized Coins

3660. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that old one rupee and new two rupee coins are almost look alikes and are likely to confuse the illiterate masses who generally use them;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to withdraw these coins and reissuing them in new designs; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Rs.1CN and Rs. 2CN coin sized 26 mm dia are in circulation. The Shape of the coins is however different. Re. 1 coin is round in shape whereas Rs. 2 coin is 11 sided.

(b) and (c) There is no move to withdraw these coins at present.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi

3661. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sittings of Hindi Consultative Committee that have taken place during the last three years;

(b) whether all recommendations made by the Committee have since been implemented;

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute new Hindi Consultative Committee; and

(d) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) There are two Hindi Salahakar Samitis in the Ministry of Industry. One is for the Departments of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Industrial Development and Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries and the other for the Departments of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises.

The Hindi Salahakar Samiti for the Departments of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Industrial Development and Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries has met six times during the last three years. The Hindi Salahkar Samiti for the Departments of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises was constituted in March.1995 and has met once since then.

(b) In the meetings of the Hindi Salahakar Samiti, progressive use of Hindi in all the Departments, including attached and subordinate offices is reviewed. Every possible effort is made to implement the suggestions of the members of the Samiti.

(c) and (d) The tenure of the last Hindi Salahakar Samiti of the Departments of Industrial Policy & Promotions, Industrial Development and Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries expired on 10.11.1995 and the same is being reconstituted.

[English]

Export of Palm Sugar, Fibre and Stalks

Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total quantity of palm-sugar, palm fibre and stalks exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : Country-wise and item-wise details are available in the Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India, Volume-I (Exports) published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, copies of which upto January, 1996 are available in the Parliament library. Country-wise and item-wise export figures for the month of February and March 1996 are not available. The item 'Palm Stalks' is not separately specified in the ITC (HS) Coding Book and therefore, its details are not available in the document.

[Translation]

Recommendation of Abid Hussain Committee

3663. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Abid Hussain Committee was constituted to examine the problems of the small scale industries;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee are given below:

(i) To examine the impact and efficacy of the promotional protective policies and direct assistance programme for SSI in the light of recent economic reforms and suggest appropriate changes.

(ii) To review the definition, legal framework and the hectregenous opposition of the small scale sector and recommend appropriate changes for realisation of the objectives.

(iii) To examine the efficacy & desirability of the reservation policy for the small industries and made suitable recommendation.

(iv) To examine the present arrangements and sources for the collection, compilation, dissemination and